



Austro-Hungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume II: Pre-1848 Awards
Part II, 1635-1740



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Introduction



What follows is an analysis of the orders medals and decorations of the Austrian and later Austro-Hungarian Empire. The period covered in this publication is from 1740 to 1918. The primary focus of this research is on the period commencing with the reign of Franz Joseph I in 1848 and ending with the abdication of Charles I in 1918. Since some of the awards, authorized in WWI continued to be issued until the late 1920s the time frame between 1918 and 1929 will be considered but only as it pertains to the issuance of imperial awards. The exception to this rule will be the inclusion of the World War I commemoration medals, which were issued by the Austrian Republic for service in the Great War.

When one speaks of Austria it is hard to define exactly when this political entity first arose and also the scope of the lands included within its boundaries. The heart of the state was the Mark which lay along the south bank of the Danube and which was originally formed by the Franks in A.D.800 as a defensive bulwark against the Slavs. In 996 this land now ruled as a Holy Roman fife by the Babenberg's was first referred to as Ostarrichi. In 1156 the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I raised Austria to the rank of a Duchy. The Babenberg family which ruled these lands became extinct in 1246 when Duke Frederick II was killed in battle. In 1273 Rudolf Habsburg defeated Otakar II of Bohemia and in so doing gained possession of Austria. This conquest by Rudolf marks the beginning of the Habsburg domination of the lands known as Austria. In 1453 Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor raised the status of the Dukes of Austria to that of Archdukes. In 1804 when Napoleon was crowned Emperor of France the Habsburg dynasty became endangered. It was believed that Napoleon would either bring about the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire or become its next emperor; either of these events could subordinate the Habsburgs to Napoleon and his descendants. To avoid this in 1804 Franz II, the Holy Roman Emperor also assumed the title of Emperor of Austria as Franz I. In 1806 Franz II abdicated as the Holy Roman Emperor thus becoming Franz I of Austria. On November 1st 1918 Charles I abdicated the Austrian throne and the empire which had lasted more than 600 years came to an end.

This research volume will primarily cover the awards issued from 1740 to 1848. In order to illustrate the continuity between the awards issued after 1740 and those issued in Austria in earlier times a brief reference will be made to awards issued prior to 1740. The scope of this research will be confined to awards issued to military and to government officials who supported the Austrian government. Awards issued by non-governmental entities not sanctioned by the Habsburg rulers or their surrogates or for purposes not related to the national goals of the Habsburg Empire will not be included in this document.





Awards Issued Prior to 1740



Prior to 1740 Habsburg rulers issue awards in very small numbers. Many were one of a kind awards made specifically for the Duke, Archduke or intended recipient. Most awards prior to 1740 were issued either to commemorate the rule of a predecessor or as a special individual honor. Many of these awards were not wearable as issued and would, using today's terminology, be described as table medals. What follows is a description of some of the wearable medals from this era. This section is not intended to be comprehensive but rather illustrative.





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Ferdinand II Golden Honor Medal
(Kaiser Ferdinand II Goldene Gnadenmedaille)



Date Issued: Circa 1635-1637

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide, then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore the title in today’s terminology would be the Emperor Ferdinand II Golden Honor Medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with two suspension eyes at the 10 and two o’clock position and an eye with a gold pendent in the form of a mounted pearl at the bottom

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Ferdinand II facing to the viewers right and wearing court dress with lace collar. Inscribed around the top half of the bust is: **FERDINANDVS II. ROM.IMP S. AVG. GERM. HVNG.**

BOH.REX.D.B.C.T. Translation: Ferdinand II. Roman Emperor, Sovereign German Ruler, Hungary, Bohemia, King D B C T.

Reverse: The reverse feature a crown below which is a crossed sword and scepter. Above the crown is a sunburst. Inscribed around the edge of the reverse of the medal is **LEGITIME CERTANTIBVS ANO.** Translation: Legitimate competitors again

Weight: Unknown

Size: 48 mm by 39 mm

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Ferdinand II Golden Honor Medal
(Kaiser Ferdinand II Goldene Gnadenmedaille)

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: None, instead two gold chains attached at the top with a ring to form a triangle. The chains connect to the eyes at the top of the medal. The medal is suspended from a chain which passes through the top eye of the device.

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Ferdinand III Golden Honor Medal
(Kaiser Ferdinand III Goldene Gnadenmedaille)



Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

Date Issued: Circa 1650

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide, then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals.

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore the title in today’s terminology would be the Emperor Ferdinand III Golden Honor Medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with an ornamental suspension eye at the top

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Ferdinand III facing to the viewers right and wearing court dress with a lace mantel style collar. Inscribed around the top half of the bust is: **FERDI III. D. G. RO.IM. S. A. G. H. B.REX. AR.AV.** Translation: Ferdinand III. With the Grace of God Roman Emperor, Sovereign Ruler of Germany, Hungary, Bohemia, King A R A V.

Reverse: The reverse features a scale of justice below and behind which are a sword and scepter crossed with the scepter passing left to right. Above the scale and touching its crossbar is a cross. Inscribed around the edge of the reverse of the medal is **FIRMAMENTA REGNORVM.** Translation: Heavenly Reign.

Weight: Unknown

Size: 47 mm by 42 mm

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Ferdinand III Honor Medal
(Kaiser Ferdinand III Gnadenmedaille)



Type I Obverse



Type I Reverse

Date Issued: Circa 1650-1657

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide, then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Honor Medal
- Silver Honor Medal

Interesting Facts: The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore the title in today’s terminology would be the Emperor Ferdinand III Copper Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with an oval suspension eye at the top

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Ferdinand III facing to the viewers right with a laurel wreath in his hair and wearing a cope with a lace collar. Inscribed around the top half of the bust is: **FERDI III. D. G. ROM. IM. SE. AU. GE. HU. BO. REX.** Translation: Ferdinand III with the grace of God Roman Emperor, Sovereign Emperor of Austria, Galicia, Hungary, Bohemia, King.

Reverse: The reverse features a scale of justice below and behind these scales are a sword and scepter crossed with the scepter passing from left right. Above the scale and touching its crossbar is a cross. Inscribed around the edge of the reverse of the medal is **FIRMAMENTA REGNORVM.** Translation: Heavenly Reign.

Weight: Unknown

Size: 39 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold and Silver

Variations:

- Type I obverse: As described above
- Type II obverse: As described above except that it has a rope design on the rim of the medal and a raised line outside of the inscription.
- Type I reverse: As described above
- Type II reverse: As described above except that it has a rope design on the rim of the medal and a raised line outside of the inscription.

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Ferdinand III Honor Medal
(Kaiser Ferdinand III Gnadenmedaille)



Type II Obverse



Type II Reverse

Case: Unknown
Ribbon: Unknown
Attachments: None
Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Leopold I Golden Honor Medal
(Kaiser Leopold I Goldene Gnadenmedaille)



Date Issued: Circa 1658-1705

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide, then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word Gnaden (grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore the title in today’s terminology would be the Emperor Leopold I Golden Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Leopold I facing to the viewers right with long flowing hair tied at the back with a ribbon. Around the upper portion of the medal is the inscription: **LEOPOLDVS D.G. ROM. IMPERATOR**. Translation: Leopold with the grace of God Roman Emperor.

Reverse: On the reverse of the medal on a plain field is the eye of god surrounded by clouds. Below the eye is a crown above which are hands holding a sword and scepter. Below the crown is a scene with a castle. Around the upper portion of the medal is inscribed: **CONSILIO ET INDVSTRIE**. Translation: Council and Industry.

Weight: 8 ducats (27.9 grams)

Size: 42 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: Also issued as a table medal (See Table Medals Part I, page 15)

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Leopold I Golden Honor Medal
(Kaiser Leopold I Goldene Gnadenmedaille)



Date Issued: Circa 1658-1705

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide, then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore the title in today’s terminology would be the Emperor Leopold I Golden Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Leopold I facing to the viewers right with long flowing hair tied at the back with a ribbon. Around the upper portion of the medal is the inscription: **LEOPOLDVS D.G. ROM. IMPERATOR**. Translation: Leopold with the Grace of God Roman Emperor.

Reverse: On the reverse of the medal on a plain field is the eye of god surrounded by clouds. Below the eye is a crown above which are hands holding a sword and scepter. Below the crown is a scene with a castle. Around the upper portion of the medal is inscribed: **CONSILIO ET INDVSTRIE**. Translation: Council and Industry.

Weight: 8 ducats (27.9 grams)

Size: Unknown

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: Also issued as a table medal (See Table Medals Part I, page 16)

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Leopold I Silver Honor Medal
(Kaiser Leopold I Silber Gnadenmedaille)



Date Issued: Circa 1658-1705

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide, then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore the title in today’s terminology would be the Emperor Leopold I Golden Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with an attached round suspension eye

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Leopold I facing to the viewers right with long flowing hair with a wreath on his head and wearing armor. Around the upper portion of the medal is the inscription: **LEOPOLD D.G. ROM. IMPERATOR.** Translation: Leopold with the Grace of God Roman Emperor.

Reverse: Inside a raised rim is an all seeing eye beaming down on a crown scepter and sword held in two arms over a globe. Around the scene is inscribed in widely separated words: **CONSILIO ET INDVSTRIE** Translation: Council and Industry.

Weight: 8 ducats (27.9 grams)

Size: 42 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Silver

Variations: Also issued as a table medal (See Table Medals Part I, page 17)

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Joseph I Golden Honor Medal
(Kaiser Joseph I Goldene Gnadenmedaille)



Date Issued: Circa 1705

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide, then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus "grace" should be interpreted as "honor" therefore the title in today's terminology would be the Emperor Joseph I Golden Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a raised rim

Obverse: Inside a raised rim is the bust of Emperor Joseph I facing to the viewers right with long curling hair, wearing armor. Around the upper half of the medal near the rim is inscribed: **JOSEPHVS D.G. ROM. IMPERATOR**. Translation: Joseph with the grace of God Roman Emperor.

Reverse: Inside a raised rim, at the 12 o'clock position on the medal is "god's eye" with rays extending out from it. A sword is extends upward from the six o'clock position into the lower rays of the eye. A laurel bough passes behind the sword and then curves around its blade. Following the lower portion of the curve of the medal is inscribed: **AMORE.ET. TIMORE**. Translation: Love and Fear, with the word ET having one letter on either side of the pommel of the sword.

Weight: Unknown

Size: 40 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: Also issued as a wearable medal (see Table Medals Part I, page 75)

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Joseph I Golden Honor Medal
(Kaiser Joseph I Goldene Gnadenmedaille)



Images courtesy of Dorotheum

Date Issued: Circa 1705

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide, then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word Gnaden (Grace) as used in the name of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore the title in today’s terminology would be the Emperor Joseph I Golden Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with raised rim

Obverse: Inside a raised rim is the bust of Emperor Joseph I with long curling hair, wearing armor and facing to the viewer’s right. Around the upper half of the medal near the rim is inscribed: **IOSEPHVS D: G ROM. EMPERATOR**. Translation: Joseph with the grace of God Roman Emperor.

Reverse: Inside a raised rim, at the 12 o’clock position on the medal is “god’s eye” with rays extending out from it. A sword is extends upward from the six o’clock position into the rays of the eye. A tree with its stem rapped around the pommel of the sword passes behind the sword with some branches passing in front of the blade. Following the lower portion of the curve of the medal is inscribed: **AMORE. ET. TIMORE**. Translation: Love and Fear, with the word ET having one letter on either side of the pommel of the sword.

Weight: 32.7 grams

Size: 55.4 mm by 43.8 mm

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: Also issued as a wearable medal (see Table Medals Part I, page 77)

Designer: Seidlitz

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Karl VI Honor Medal
(Kaiser Karl VI Gnadenmedaille)



Type I Large Gold Medal

Date Issued: 1711-40

Reason Issued: For outstanding service to the empire during the war of the Spanish Succession

Classes or Types: Seven

- Large Gold Medal
- Gold Medal
- Small Gold Medal
- Large Silver Medal
- Silver Medal
- Small Silver Medal
- Bronze Medal

Interesting Facts: Awarded in 1711 to Phillip Orth, Burgomaster of Frankfurt on Main and in 1730 to Jakob Paul Freiherr von Gundling, President of the Academy of Science in Berlin

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with attached flattened decorative eye

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Karl VI in armor the breast of which is decorated with a double headed eagle and wearing the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece. His right facing bust has a victor's wreath and long flowing hair. Around the upper half of the medal is the inscription: **CAROLUS VI D.G. ROM. IMP. S. A. GE. HI. HU. BO. REX.** Translation: Karl VI with the Grace of God Roman Emperor Sovereign of Austria, Galicia, HI, Hungary, Bohemia King) Below the emperor's arm is the name of the designer: **BECKER F**, (Philip Christoph Becker), the F stands for fabrikat (manufactured).

Reverse: A large globe in the center of a ring of clouds. On this globe is a map of the Italian peninsula Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, and part of the Dalmatian coastline. Paralleling the top edge of the medal is an inscription: **CONSTANTIA ET FORTUDINE.** Translation: Faithful Service and Bravery.





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Karl VI Honor Medal
(Kaiser Karl VI Gnadenmedaille)



Type II Bronze Medal

Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

Weight:

- Large Gold Medal: 29 Ducats (101.2 grams)
- Gold Medal: 24 Ducats (70-83.4 grams)
- Small Gold Medal: 16 Ducats (55.8 grams)
- Large Silver Medal: 101.2 grams
- Silver Medal: Unknown
- Small Silver Medal: Unknown
- Bronze Medal: Unknown

Size:

- Large Gold Medal: 68 mm by 60 mm and 3 mm thick
- Gold Medal: 57-58 mm by 49 mm
- Small Gold Medal: 48 mm by 42 mm
- Large Silver Medal: 69 mm by 60 mm
- Silver Medal: 48 mm by 42 mm
- Small Silver Medal: 38-34 mm by 33-29 mm
- Bronze Medal: 58 mm by 49 mm

Type of Material: Gold, silver and bronze

Variations: There are four types of honor medals

- Type I: As described with makers name BECKER
- Type II: As described but with the makers name P.C. BECKER
- Type III: As described but without the eagle on the breast of the armor and the makers name BECKER
- Type IV: As described but without the eagle on the breast of the armor and the makers name BECKER
- Type V: As described except it does not have the makers name and the obverse inscription differs as follows: **CAROL VI DG R IM SA G E HI HU BO REX AR**

Designer: Philip Christoph Becker





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Karl VI Honor Medal
(Kaiser Karl VI Gnadenmedaille)



Type IV Gold Medal

Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals
and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

Manufacturer: Unknown
Number Issued: Unknown
Case: Unknown
Ribbon: Unknown
Attachments: None
Miniature: None known



Type V Silver Medal

